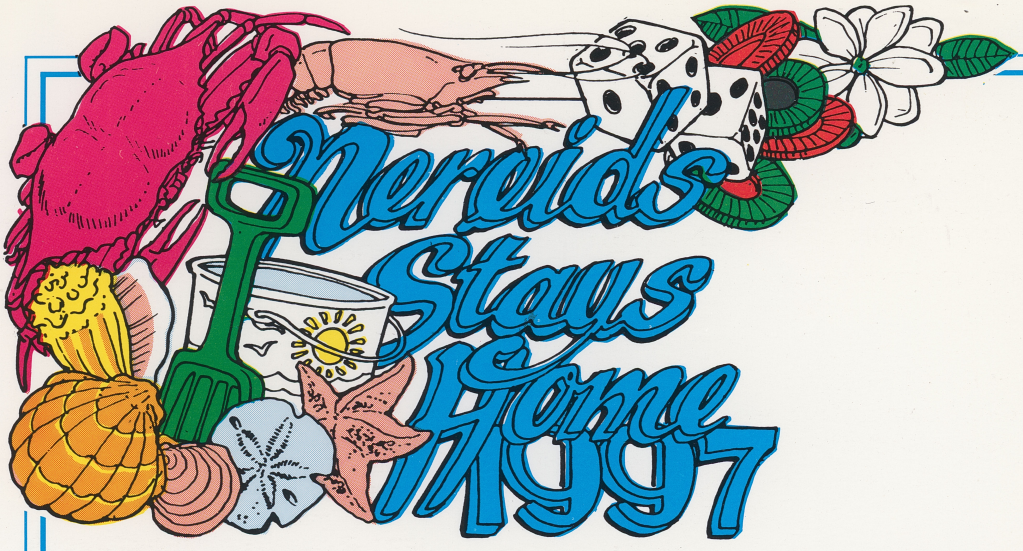
THE KREWE OF NEREIDS

presents

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL BAL MASQUE

SATURDAY EVENING
JANUARY 18, 1997
MISSISSIPPI COAST COLISEUM
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI



Tonight, toes are tapping to the rhythms of the Mississippi Gulf Coast as the Krewe of Nereids invites one and all to celebrate the rich cultural heritage we have right here at home. For thirty years, Nereids has taken you around the globe on a whirlwind tour. This year, the Krewe says, "All the ingredients for a sensational party are right here on the fabulous Gulf Coast of Mississippi! We've traveled hundreds of thousands of miles only to discover we have the best of it all!"

For a few fun-filled hours, let us entertain and delight you with the pageantry of one of America's rarest treasures. Let us treat you, our always-welcome guests, to a touch of the spicy goodness of a savory gumbo, a tad of magnolias and lace, a little something for everybody!

We have a lot in store for you. . . It's Paradise! It's the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. Let's Celebrate! It's more than just a place to live and work; it's a Pageant of People, and Art, and Nature, and Life!

OUR TABLEAUX UNFOLDS. . .

The Maestro raises his baton as we enjoy the Spirited Overture to "NEREIDS STAYS HOME!"

- The Captain's Whistle signals the beginning of our THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL SPECTACULAR CARNIVAL BALL as we welcome. . .
- The ROYAL COURT OF 1996 recalling CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD.
- All hail their ROYAL MAJESTIES, our 1996 KING and QUEEN, before. . .
- The SCEPTER BEARER makes a TRADITIONAL APPEARANCE.
- Behold the spotting of the CREST OF NEREIDS as a PRELUDE to our CELEBRATION of the UNIQUE AND PICTURESQUE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST.
- Costumed to portray the MAJESTIC OAKS that dominate our landscape, our KREWE OFFICERS extend a "WELCOME TO THE BALL" and signal that our CELEBRATION IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
- Behold, in the TRADITION OF MARDI GRAS, the entrance of the CAPTAIN OF NEREIDS, who, in BLACK AND GOLD, symbolically represents the GLAMOROUS NIGHT LIFE OF THE GULF COAST.
- It's time to start the water boiling. . .CRAB BOIL, ONION, GARLIC, CELERY, SALT, LEMON and whatever else you like. The CELEBRATED KREWE CHEFS have assembled all the INGREDIENTS for a SAVORY AND SPICY GUMBO.

On to the INCOMPARABLE SAENGER THEATRE to hear MUSIC that makes the SOUL SOAR, as rhythmic voices fill the air with RICH SONGS from the GOSPEL TRADITION and ANCIENT CHURCH LITURGY.

It's time to head for the BEACH and JOIN THE KREWE: they've got a lot in store for you: it's PARADISE: it's the ENDLESS STRETCH OF MISSISSIPPI'S SAND BEACH.

The FOLK CUSTOMS OF CARNIVAL and MARDI GRAS of the MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST come ALIVE as the MAIDS AND DUKES of our 1997 ROYAL COURT appear and depict. . .

"MARDI GRAS, MISSISSIPPI STYLE"
The Big Daddy of all Celebrations

"THE BOUNTIFUL RICHES OF THE GULF"
More Seafood than anywhere else in the Country

"ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE ARTS"
Walter Anderson to Alice Moseley, the Coast Nurtures Them

"NASA'S SPACE CENTER"
Where Our Imaginations are Rocketed to the Stars

"THE SOUTHERN GRACE OF BEAUVOIR"
A Coast of Splendid Vistas, sure to fill you with Wonder

"SAILING THE SERENE WATERS OF THE SOUND"
Our Fascination with the Wind and the Sea

Hail QUEEN DORIS XXXI, Personifying one of AMERICA'S MOST UNSUNG PARADISES, THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST, as she reigns as QUEEN OF OUR BAL MASQUE.

Her MAJESTY now calls for the CAPTAIN TO ESCORT. . .

KING NEREUS XXXI who bids that his subjects EXPLORE with him this MOST SCENIC OF AMERICAN REGIONS.

Honored GUESTS are received at the REGAL THRONE before. . .

The ROYAL COURT proceeds in a "GRAND PROMENADE" amid a KALEIDOSCOPE of MARDI GRAS MUSIC.

Our CELEBRATION of the COAST continues with a visit to the NEW KID ON THE BLOCK, LADY LUCK.

The KREWE assembles in a GRAND FINALE SALUTE to the MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST.

The OFFICERS AND KREWE take CENTER STAGE as they acknowledge the WONDERFUL GUESTS OF NEREIDS.

The GRACIOUS and CAPTIVATING CAPTAIN OF THE KREWE bids you a NOSTALGIC "FAREWELL" until we all meet again at next year's KREWE OF NEREIDS 32ND ANNUAL BAL MASQUE EXTRAVAGANZA!

The "CALL-OUT DANCES" BEGIN, after which GENERAL DANCING adds to the HAPPY EXCITEMENT of our MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION.

The Royal Court
of
1997

King Nereus XXXI

Dukes To His Majesty
Mr. Jerry Murray
Mr. Jim Hampton
Mr. Art Young
Mr. Gregory D. Dossett
Mr. Gary Gaines
Mr. Gary Roche

Royal Pages To His Majesty
Miss Taylor Heath
Miss Marissa Elizabeth Turcotte

Royal Pages To Her Majesty
Miss Caitlin Rae Whitfield
Miss Amelia Leigh Handshoe

RECOLLECTIONS

1967 - Cavalcade of American Dance
King Nereus I - Cornelius K. Herlihy*
1968 - Era of Laughter
King Nereus II - Merlin R. Markel
1996 - Carnival in Rio
King Nereus III - Henry Develle, Jr.*
1970 - Spirit of America
King Nereus IV - W. Ray Gordon*
1971 - Opening Nights
King Nereus V - James DeBlanc*
1972 - Three Ring Circus
King Nereus VI - Haskell L. Doyle*
1973 - Echoes of Famous Streets
King Nereus VII - John Gallagher
1974 - The Enchanted Toy Shop
King Nereus VIII - T. Dixon Ashman
1975 - The Jazz Age
King Nereus IX - David L. Johnson
1976 - Hawaii, The 50th State
King Nereus X - Lucien M. Gex, Jr.
1977 - State Fair
King Nereus XI - Vincent Schott
1978 - Ooooh La La, Paree!
King Nereus XII - Clifford P. Vogt*
1979 - Classic Greece
King Nereus XIII - Luke Caruso
1980 - Space Fantasy
King Nereus XIV - Robert W. Wyatt, Jr.
1981 - Fiesta! Fiesta!
King Nereus XV - Donald W. Diboll
1982 - The Adventures of Alice
King Nereus XVI - Arthur J. Chapman III
1983 - Yankee Doodle Dandy
King Nereus XVII - Thomas W. Kidd
1984 - It's A Small World
King Nereus XVIII - Gerald C. Gex
1985 - Sunday in the Park
King Nereus XIX - Alvin G. Bernard
1986 - It's Mardi Gras Time
King Nereus XX - Harold M. Hitt
1987 - And So It Was ... Dixieland
King Nereus XXI - Joseph W. Gex
1988 - Entertainment, U.S.A.
King Nereus XXII - William B. Whitfield
1989 - Let's Rock 'N' Roll
King Nereus XXIII - Herbert T. Dubuisson
1990 - Nereids Visits Oz
King Nereus XXIV - Clarence L. Moran
1991 - The Way We Never Were
King Nereus XXV - R. Terry Markel
1992 - Viva Las Vegas
King Nereus XXVI - Donald Caserta
1993 - Nereids Awards the Oscars
King Nereus XXVII - Armand H. Serpas, Sr.
1994 - The Big Band Era
King Nereus XXVIII - Michael Richardson
1995 - New York, New York
King Nereus XXIX - Dr. Andrew K. Martinolich
1996 - It's A Celebration
King Nereus XXX - Keith A. Ladner

*Deceased

GENERAL CHAIRMEN

Mr. Keith A. Ladner
Mr. Clarence L. Moran

VICE CHAIRMEN

Mr. Charles A. Breath, III
Mr. Herbert T. Dubuisson

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Mr. Joseph W. Gex
Mr. Luke J. Caruso
Mr. Gerald C. Gex
Mr. Robert W. Wyatt, Jr.
Mr. William B. Whitfield
Mr. R. Terry Markel
Mr. Donald Caserta
Mr. Armand Serpas, Sr.
Mr. Michael Richardson
Dr. Andrew K. Martinolich

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Mr. Allyn Combs, Vice Chairman

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Mr. Curtis Colson
Mr. Harold J. Torgerson
Mr. Morris Lott

Mr. Frank Darby
Mr. Michael Murphy
Mr. Spurgeon C. Crosby
Mr. John R. Adams

Mr. William Bourgeois
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Mr. John H. Chapman
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Mr. Cooper Ladner
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Mr. Lucien M. Gex, III

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Mr. Gene Stanbro
Mr. Henry Martinez
Mr. Bryce P. Gex
Mr. James R. Gurley

PARADE MARSHALL

Mr. Armand H. Serpas, Sr.

KREWE OF NEREIDS PARADE

Sunday, February 11, 1996
1 P.M.
Highway 90, Waveland